

Allowable Greenspace Plantings

1. Plants installed on the County right-of-way cannot block vehicle operator sight distances along roadways or impede the use of public sidewalks.
2. Plantings must not cause erosion of the soil on the right-of-way. All exposed soil must be protected from erosion by mulch, erosion control fabric or other such means.
3. All resident or community installed plantings under this standard are the maintenance responsibility of the resident or community.
4. Weeds as defined in Chapter 58 of the County code, noxious or otherwise, are not permitted.
5. Invasive plants are not permitted. Invasives are plants which by their growth habits or origin:
 - are aggressive in their growth requiring repeated containment efforts through the growing season; examples include but are not limited to; English ivy, kudzu, porcelain berry, purple loosestrife, ailanthus
 - have no native or natural control mechanism,
 - suppress the growth of other plants, especially natives, by chemical, aggressive growth, shading, or other means,
 - spread rapidly,
 - are listed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as invasive.
6. Acceptable plants may be ornamental grasses, flowers, herbaceous perennials or woody plants which at maturity will not exceed a height of 18" without the need for pruning.
7. No vegetable plantings are permitted.
8. Under Maryland State law, plantings allowed under these guidelines can not be located within 15' of fire hydrants, for other items appearing in the right-of-way such as; utility meters, sewer clean outs, etc., a minimum of 3' is to be kept free of plantings.
9. The planting design must provide for access across the right-of-way from the edge of pavement to the sidewalk where sidewalks are present. Access paths must be at least 36" wide and should occur at least every 25' and can be by flagstone, brick, mulched path or other suitable means.
10. On closed section roads, plant material should not be located so as to impede people from opening doors of vehicles parked at the edge of pavement or curb line.
11. Plantings must not impede drainage flows on open section roads. Plantings are allowed only on the house side of the drainage swale and a minimum 2' wide zone along the drainage path at the bottom of drainage swales must be kept clear of all plant material.
12. Any plant material installed on the County right-of-way by residents will not be replaced by the Department of Public Works and Transportation if damaged as a result of County maintenance activities. To minimize the potential for damage resulting from maintenance activities plantings should not be located within 1' of the edge of pavement on open section roads, the back edge of curb on closed section roads, or the sidewalk if present.
13. All parts of plants located on the right-of-way (other than trees) must be kept within the confines of the planting area.
14. Plantings must allow for natural drainage of surface water flows across the right-of-way and must not cause ponding of water on either the public sidewalk or adjacent properties.
15. The County assumes no liability for any adverse consequences resulting from privately installed plantings located on the public right-of-way.

APPROVED 7/29/03
DATE

REVISED

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

**ALLOWABLE GREENSPACE
PLANTINGS**

STANDARD NO. MC-704.01


DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF PUBLIC
WORKS & TRANSPORTATION


CHIEF, DIV. OF ENG. SERVICES